

The Sun.

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THREE OLD TIME CANNON

ONE DOWN BROADWAY, THE TWO IN SOUTH STREET.

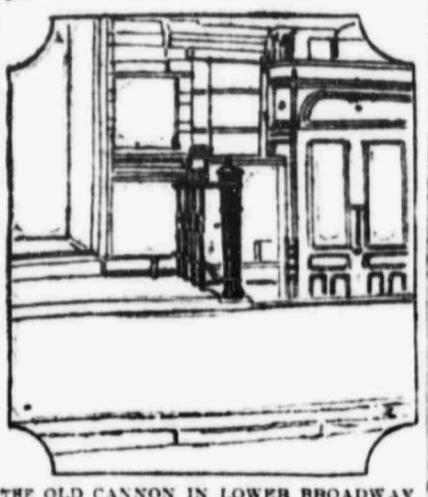
ONE PASSED DAILY BY THOUSANDS WHO NEVER SEE IT. THE TWO OTHERS IF YOU DIDN'T LOOK OUT, SO CURIOUS ARE THEY PLACED.

IN THE SIXTY-FOUR PAGES DEVOTED TO THE CITY OF NEW YORK IN BAEDKE'S "HANDBOOK TO THE UNITED STATES" THIS SENTENCE IS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF A DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDINGS AND OBJECTS OF INTEREST TO BE FOUND ALONG LOWER BROADWAY:

AT NO. 55 IS A REVOLUTIONARY CANNON, FOUND IN DIGGING THE FOUNDATIONS AND USED AS THE NAIL OF THE OUTSIDE STEPS."

THESE ARE NEW YORKERS WHO NEVER HEARD OF THAT CANNON TILL THEY READ ABOUT IT IN BAEDKE'S AND THERE ARE DOUBTLESS THOUSANDS OF PERSONS WHO PASS IT DAILY WHO HAVE NEVER SEEN OR NEVER NOTED IT, THOUGH IT STANDS THERE UPRIGHT AND IN PLAIN VIEW AT THE INNER EDGE OF THE SIDEWALK.

NO. 55 IS A SIX STORY BUILDING ON A SINGLE LOT ON THE WEST SIDE OF BROADWAY AT THE CORNER OF EXCHANGE ALLEY, A VERY NARROW THOROUGHFARE WHICH RUNS FROM BROADWAY ONE BLOCK WEST TO CHAMBERS PLACE. IN THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE BUILDING IS A SALOON, THE UPPER FLOORS BEING OCCUPIED BY BUSI-



THE OLD CANNON IN LOWER BROADWAY

NESS PURPOSES. THE ENTRANCE WAY TO THE UPPER FLOOR IS IN THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING, THE SALOON BEING ON THE CORNER, WITH ITS ENTRANCE THREE STEPS DOWN FROM THE SIDEWALK, THE TOP STEP BEING PERHAPS FIVE FEET DISTANT FROM THE BUILDING LINE.

SOUTH OF THOSE STEPS DOWN, TO ENTER THE UPPER PART OF THE BUILDING, YOU STEP UP A STEP TO A FIVE FOOT WIDE STONE PLATFORM JUST ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE SIDEWALK AND FROM THAT UP ANOTHER STEP INTO THE HALLWAY. ALONG THE NORTHERN EDGE OF THE PLATFORM STEP, EXTENDING OUT ABOUT FIVE FEET FROM THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING, TO THE INNER EDGE OF THE SIDEWALK, IS SET AN IRON RAILING AS A GUARD RAIL BETWEEN THIS STEP AND THE DEPRESSED STEP IMMEDIATELY TO THE NORTH OF IT; AND IT IS AT THE OUTER END OF THE RAILING, RIGHT AT THE INNER EDGE OF THE SIDEWALK, SERVING NOW AS THIS RAILING'S TOWER OR FINISHING POST, THAT ONE FINDS THE CANNON, SET MUZZLE DOWNWARD, SWELLING UPWARD SLIGHTLY AS ANY POST MIGHT DO, AND ENDING AT THE TOP WITH THE KNOB AT THE BASE OF THE BREECH.

THE CANNON HAS BEEN WELL ADAPTED TO PRESENT USE, AND IT IS LIKELY THAT MORE THAN ONE MAN WHO HAS COME FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING HAS LEANED FOR A MOMENT ON

MUCH HAS BEEN HEARD ABOUT THE DISADVANTAGES OF SUMMER TRAVEL IN ITALY, WRITES A CORRESPONDENT OF *COUNTRY LIFE* IN AMERICA, ABOUT THE HEAT, THE DUST, AND THE FLEAS; THE DRIED UP RIVERS AND THE WILDED VEGETATION. TIS HIGH TIME THE OTHER SIDE WAS UPHELD.

ASK ANY SCHOOL TEACHER TO WHOM THE LONG VACATION IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE TIME FOR EUROPEAN TRAVEL IF SHE WOULD RISK SPENDING IT IN ITALY, AND SHE WILL REPLY: "BETTER MIDSUMMER THAN MIDWINTER."

ITALIAN HOUSES ARE APT TO BE BADLY HEATED; ITALIAN WINDS ARE APT TO BE PENETRATING; ITALIAN CHURCHES AND PICTURE GALLERIES ARE APT TO BE COLD AND DAMP IN DECEMBER, NOT IN JULY.

THE SON OF AUGUST HAS A PITIABLE HEAT, BUT TRAVELLERS SPEEDILY LEARN FROM THE NATIVES TO KEEP AWAY FROM IT'S MIDDAY RAYS. THOSE WHO ARE OBLIGED TO GO ABROAD BETWEEN 12 O'CLOCK AND 2 SEEK THE SHADE OF FRIENDLY STONE WALLS, BELTS OF TREES OR THE AWNINGS IN FRONT OF THE SHOPS WHICH DROOP TO THE CURSTONES.

THE ARCADES OF BOLOGNA, PADUA AND PIAS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN BUILT ON PURPOSE TO PROVIDE SHADE OF A MORE SUBSTANTIAL CHARACTER, AND WHEN THEY ADD AWNINGS UNTO THEMSELVES THEY ECHO THE WORDS OF THE PALMIST: "THE SUN SHALL NOT SMITE THESE."

NOT MANY TOURISTS CAN ENDURE AN UNINTERRUPTED COURSE OF SIGHTSEEING FROM MORNING TILL NIGHT, DAY AFTER DAY. THERE MUST BE PERIODS OF RELAXATION SOMEWHERE, AND IN ITALY IN SUMMER TIME THEY CAN AS WELL AS NOT BE TAKEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, INSTEAD OF IN THE MORNING OR EVENING. BANKS AND BUSINESS HOUSES HAVE A FASHION OF CLOSING FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS IN THE HOTTEST PART OF THE DAY AND REOPENING FROM 3 O'CLOCK TILL 5 OR 6.

DRIVING IS CHEAP EVERYWHERE IN ITALY, AND THERE IS NO MORE DELIGHTFUL WAY OF SPENDING A WARM SUMMER EVENING THAN TAKING A "COUSE" BEHIND A GOOD HORSE WHEN THE HORSE IS PLAYING IN THE GARDENS AND THE WHOLE TOWN HAS TURNED OUT TO HEAR IT. NOTHING CAN BE MORE DELIGHTFUL, UNLESS IT BE A WALK BEFORE BREAKFAST IN THE COOL OF THE EARLY MORNING BEFORE THE SUN HAS WARMED UP TO HIS WORK AND TAKEN THE VIVACITY AND ENERGY OUT OF NATIVE AND FOREIGNER ALIKE.

TO COME DOWN TO MORE PROSECUTED CONSIDERATIONS, ALL THE LEADING HOTELS AND PENINSULAS IN ITALY WHICH KEEP OPEN AT ALL HAVE SUMMER RATES WHICH ENABLE THE POSSESSOR OF A MODEST INCOME TO PROSECURE MUCH BETTER ACCOMMODATION THAN AT ANY OTHER SEASON. HE WHO HAS A BED ROOM IN A COOL AND WHOLE ROOM WOULD BE BEYOND HIS MEANS IN MAY, EVEN IF HE COULD BE SQUEEZED IN THERE AT ALL.

THE SAME RULE APPLIES IN THE SHOPS, EVERYTHING IS CHEAPER OUT OF THE SEASON, ESPECIALLY THE DRIVING AND THE SAILING. THE TOURIST OF JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER FINDS ITSELF INDEEDLY CROWDED ANYWHERE, THOUGH THERE ARE PLenty OF PEOPLE ABOUT TO SAVE THE LAND FROM DESOLATION, AND HE IS LIKELY TO RECEIVE A SUPERABUNDANCE OF EAGER ATTENDANCE THAT EARLIER IN THE YEAR IS RESERVED FOR HIS WEALTHIER NEIGHBOR.

SHOOTING SHARKS WITH WATER.

FROM THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

WHEN HE IS WORKING IN WATER INFESTED BY SHARKS AND OTHER SEA MONSTERS LIKELY TO DO HIM HARM, THE DIVER HAS AT PRESENT TO RELY FOR HIS SAFETY ON THE USE OF THE KNIFE, OR FAILING THAT, ON A QUICK RETURN TO THE SURFACE. NOW COMES THE INVENTION OF CAPT. GROBL, A GERMAN DIVING INSTRUCTOR, WHO HAS CONSTRUCTED A RIFLE WHICH CAN BE FIRED UNDER WATER, AND IS DESIGNED FOR THE BETTER ARMING OF THE DIVER. THE MOST REMARKABLE THING ABOUT THIS IS THAT IT FIRES, NOT BULLETS, BUT WATER, WHICH IS PROPELLED WITH SUCH FORCE THAT IT HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY POWER OF PENETRATION.

AND THE CENTER HIVE OF THE PAINTED ARMOUR PLATE OF MEDIUM THICKNESS WITH THE WATER JET FROM HIS WEAPON. THE RIFLE HAS A STOUT BARREL AND IS LOADED WITH A CARTRIDGE CASED IN INDIA RUBBER. IT IS WORKING, RECALLING, PERHAPS, THAT EXPERIMENTAL GUN WHICH WAS MADE WITH A SUBMARINE RIFLE FIRING SMALL EXPLOSIVE PROJECTILES BY MEANS OF COMPRESSED AIR, BUT THE INVENTION NEVER GOT BEYOND THE EXPERIMENTAL STAGE AND NO DETAILS OF IT ARE TO BE HAD.

THESE OLD GUNS ARE DEEPLY EMBEDDED AND STANDING AS THEY DO, SINCE THEY WERE MADE YEARS AGO AND SOLD INSIDE, TO WITHIN A FEW FEET OF THE TOP, WITH DUST AND MINOR DIRT. WHEN IT RAINS LITTLE POOLS OF WATER ACCUMULATE IN THE HOLLOW, AND THE CANNON IS LIKELY TO BECOME A SOURCE OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE LOCAL BOY SCOUTS, WHO PASS THESE CANNONS IN SOUTH STREET DAILY, HAVING BEEN FAMILIAR WITH THEM, AND PARTICULARLY THOUGHT TO THEM AS IF NOBODY CAN PASS THEM WITHOUT BEING HIT BY THEM, BECAUSE OF THEIR SIZE. THE TOWER OF THESE CANNONS IS LOCATED ON THE SIDEWALK FIVE FEET FROM THE SOUTH STREET CURB, AND THE TOWER ONE STANDS BACK FIVE FEET FROM THE CURB AND SOME TEN OR TWELVE FEET UP THE SIDEWALK FROM THE CURB AT THE NORTH SIDE OF COENTIES SLIP. WHY

THESE OLD CANNON WERE PLACED AS THEY ARE, ONE STANDING BACK FROM THE CURB A FEW FEET AND THE OTHER RISING RIGHT AT THE MIDDLE OF THE SIDEWALK IS LIKELY TO SEEM TO THE PASSING STRANGER A GREAT MYSTERY.

BUT THERE ARE A FEW MEN LIVING, LONG FAMILIAR WITH THE LOCALITY, WHO KNOW HOW THE OLD CANNON CAME TO BE PLACED AS THEY WERE.

ONE OF THESE MEN WHO CAN REMEMBER BACK IS JOHN C. GLIFFING, A SOUTH STREET MERCHANT WHO HAS HIS OFFICE AT 23 SOUTH STREET. MR. GLIFFING IS A DIRECTOR OF THE OLDEST MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH STREET VETERAN ASSOCIATION, HE JOINED THE ASSOCIATION IN 1881. HE WAS BORN IN 1825 AND HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN BUSINESS PURSUITS FOR SEVENTY YEARS, AS HE IS STILL, HALF AND BOURGEOIS, IN HIS EIGHTY-EIGHTH YEAR. MR. GLIFFING FIRST CAME TO SOUTH STREET IN 1840.

AT THAT TIME COENTIES SLIP WAS A SHIP-IN-FACT, AS WELL AS NOT, AND THE CANNON, WHICH WAS WATER ENOUGH IN THE SHIP TO FLOAT THE SHIP, WERE ABANDONED.

OLD CUSTOMS WERE ABOLISHED, THE CHARACTER AND TEMPERAMENT OF THE INHABITANTS CHANGED, RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY WAS LOST AND THE CRIMINAL INSTINCTS AND PASSIONS OF THE PEOPLE HAD FULL VENT.

THE RETURNED EMIGRANTS BROUGHT BACK WITH THEM NEW IDEAS OF DEMOCRACY AND EQUALITY, THEY CONSIDERED THEMSELVES SUPERIOR TO THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT BECAUSE ENRICHED IN THE LAND OF PLENTY.

POSSIBLY THE FRENCH ALBUMINETTE IS INTENDED TO STIMULATE THE MINOR VIRTUES, SUCH AS PATIENCE, HOPE, AND THE CONTROL OF THE TONGUE; OTHERWISE IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHY A MATCH MANUFACTURED BY THE STATE AND TAXED EXHIBITANT SHOULD BE OF SUCH INFAMOUS QUALITY.

AND AS A RULE SO LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE ANTECEDENTS OF THE INHABITANTS THAT AFTER THE MURDER OF RUGOLINO, HIS WIFE AND SIX CHILDREN THE POLICE WERE QUITE IN THE DARK AS TO WHERE AND HOW THE VICTIM SPENT THE TWO YEARS HE PASSED IN AMERICA. HENCE THE MOTIVE OF THIS CRIME WILL VERY LIKELY REMAIN A MYSTERY.

FRENCH WAYS.

THE TRADITIONAL GAYETY NOT FOUND BY AN ENGLISH CRITIC.

"NOTHING MORE AROMATIC SWIFTLY CALLS UP THE WRATH OF THE TRAVELLING BRITON THAN THE INEFFICIENCY OF THE FRENCH MATCH," WRITES AN ENGLISH WOMAN IN THE *LADY'S PICTORIAL*.

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